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# Kingston Guardian



[www.kingstonguardian.co.uk](http://www.kingstonguardian.co.uk)

April 28, 2016

60p

Mum-to-be taken  
to hospital... in a  
rubber dinghy

## MY WATER BABY



**REPORTER**  
**ELLIE CAMBRIDGE**

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A WOMAN in labour who was rescued by boat when her home flooded has revealed the ordeal put her off the idea of having a water birth.

Briar Coles, 32, was ready to depart for hospital but when fiancé Barry Pitts got to their car he found it full of water up to the steering wheel, after 40 homes were damaged by flooding from a burst water main in Hook.

A torrent of water poured into Cecil Close in the early hours of Saturday, writing off cars and forcing residents from their homes for months to come.

But despite having to call for help and be floated from her front door to a waiting ambulance, Ms Coles, a physiotherapist, safely gave birth to daughter Andreyana at Kingston Hospital.

She said: "Within about five minutes there was a police officer at the door. He'd walked all the way down through the water, and there was an ambulance waiting

at the end of the road.

"Andreyana's great, really good, very chilled despite all the chaos around her. She's got a great birth story."

Thames Water apologised for the leak and said it would support families in making insurance claims for the damage.

Ms Coles, who returned home on Monday, had planned a water birth, but changed her mind and joked: "I think I'd been put off to be honest, I didn't really feel like going in the water again."

She said: "We started putting towels down to see if we could do anything to prevent the water coming in."

"Once it started coming into the house and we weren't sure about getting out it was a bit more scary."

"It was bad timing - I'd spent so long getting the house ready for the new baby."

Andreyana weighed 9lb 6oz when she was born at about 2.50am on Sunday. Ms Coles, who has another daughter named Ariana, 22 months, went into labour on Friday but waited before leaving for hospital.

She awoke at about 1.30am on



**Rescue drama: Briar Coles with Ariana and Andreyana. From top: The rescue; the flooding in Cecil Close. Sister Ariana, 22 months, and father Barry Pitts with the newest addition to the family**

Saturday to a missed call from a neighbour. She said: "I heard an alarm. I thought it was my fiancé's bike being stolen as that has happened around this area."

"All of the rest of the neighbours were outside taking pictures and I didn't really notice any water on the ground or anything so rang the neighbour back and she's like, 'Just to let you

know our street's flooded, and the garden's flooded, and it's about to go into our houses."

The family has lived in Cecil Close for about five years, and plans to move in with Mr Pitts' mother until their home is rendered habitable again - which could take up to three months.

**Turn to page 2 for more on the flooding.**

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Residents may have to wait three months to return to homes following flooding early on Saturday morning

# Families relocated to hotel after water pipe bursts, damaging homes and cars

REPORTER

ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

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FAMILIES may not be able to return to their homes for three months because of flooding from a burst water pipe that wrote off vehicles and damaged dozens of houses and flats.

A 24in pipe in Hook Road burst in the early hours of Saturday morning and high-pressure water was seen bubbling from underneath the pavement.

Residents of Cecil Close, which is in a slight dip, woke to find water pouring down the road just after 1.30am on Saturday.

Due to the damage 18 cars and two motorbikes were written off.

Paul Hutchinson, who lives in a ground floor flat, said: "It got to the stage where it was starting flooding up through the bathroom floor and

it was only a puddle.

"Ten minutes later I went to get more stuff for the dam we built here and the bathroom was two inches full."

His wife, Trudy, said letters from her grandmother were damaged by water.

She added: "You just never expect something like this to happen to your home."

"We are grateful for the offers of support from the community."

"I think you've got to pull together and smile - nobody got hurt."

Families affected by the extensive water damage to their homes were relocated to a Premier Inn.

The Lucky Rover pub was forced to close while water was drained from the cellar.

Volunteers helped to clean up and provide freshly made soup for those affected in the following days.

Chessington South councillor Rachel Reid said: "It was overwhelm-

ing. There wasn't actually a huge amount, thankfully, to clear up. But the amount of people that volunteered to do it was great.

"It was just really nice to know that in a time of trouble people are willing to step in."

"The police were first on the scene, in terms of knocking on residents' doors and telling them what's going on."

**What a mess:**  
Colin Huntingford's picture shows clean-up efforts the day after the night before

About 40 homes in Hook Road, Clayton Road, Cecil Close, St Paul's Close and Selwood Road were affected when the pipe burst.

A Thames Water spokesman said: "We're very sorry for the disruption."

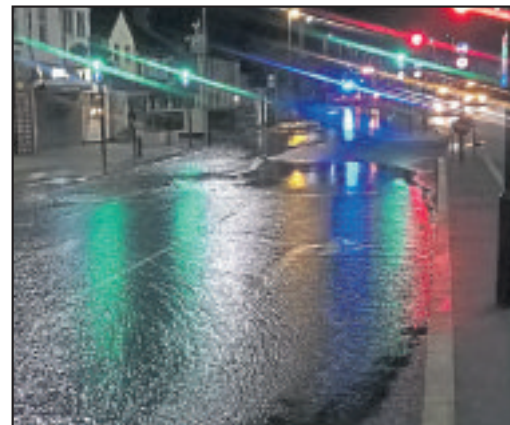
"We've spoken to all the individual customers who suffered in the flooding to make sure they are fully covered for any damage to their

property, and will continue to support them throughout the insurance process."

"Our engineers worked around the clock over the weekend and into the early hours of Monday to make sure repairs to the damaged pipe and road were finished in time for rush-hour this morning, and everything should now be back to normal."



Damage: Inside a home in Cecil Close



Torrent: A London Fire Brigade photo shows the flood's scale



Floods: Cleaning up at the Lucky Rover



Written off: Vehicles. Pic: Susie Turner

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## Rumours are 'lies'

KINGSTON Council's leader has branded rumours there will be no council-owned homes in the regenerated Cambridge Road estate "complete lies" but was unable to say residents would return to the same rents they had when they left.

Cllr Kevin Davis responded to worried residents after a Freedom of Information request to the Greater London Authority (GLA) suggested there would be no council housing after redevelopment.

It was revealed last month that mayor Boris Johnson was set to give the council £46.2m to turn the estate into a housing zone.

GLA figures show 879 of the units will be private, for sale at full market value, while 60 built before 2021 and 760 built between 2021 and 2026 will be affordable.

Critics said the disclosure showed no council-owned properties in the plans.

Cllr Davis said: "It is complete lies. We have always said we will not go ahead unless we can guarantee people [displaced] during the regeneration can return to homes there."

Council tenants on the estate currently pay an average of £100 a week in rent. Post-regeneration rent will be capped, Cllr Davis said.

Remains believed to be 150 years old on site of Quaker meeting house

# Quaking in their boots over store extension body find

REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

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PRIMARK builders made a grisly discovery when they uncovered a skeleton while working on the town centre store's new extension.

Archaeologists have been drafted into the Eden Street site for further excavations after the body, estimated to be between 150 and 200 years old, was uncovered earlier this month.

The budget clothes shop is almost doubling its size by extending on to the site of the former Quaker meeting house and cemetery built in 1773.

Human remains were exhumed in 2010 and moved to Surbiton cemetery but one body was never found.

Chairman of the Quaker project committee Graham Torr said the church may never know whose they are, and suggested more might be lurking underneath the soil.

He said: "I have been supporting Primark in having



Spooky find: The site of the former Quaker meeting house

them moved. Quakers are very good burial record keepers but they do make mistakes and it appears this is one person of whom we have no record.

"I don't believe it is the original missing individual, as the area we thought that man was in has been extensively searched. This appears to be someone else. We are moving this person to Surbiton cemetery. The grave will be marked with where they were in the Quaker cemetery.

The truth is we may never know who this person was."

Last December it was reported that Primark had delayed starting the extension despite gaining planning permission in 2012.

There was speculation that this was because of the numerous spooky artifacts that have been found on the site.

A human skull dating back to 1,000BC, a Roman altar and Latin curses written on strips of lead have all been found in the ground before

the development started, according to a 1998 archaeological assessment published by Kingston Council.

The assessment added that in the Middle Ages Eden Street was called Heathen Street because of the "low status of the inhabitants".

It said: "The name is thought to have originated from the residents of this area in the medieval period, who would have been involved in dirty trades such as slaughter men and skinner."

A builder on the site said: "[The archaeologists] told us there were 200-year-old bones. They're in a separate bit to us and I haven't been to look."

"I don't really want to."

A Primark spokeswoman said: "The archaeological dig has led to the discovery of a small number of archaeological artefacts. Findings have been recorded, signed off by Historic England and removed as part of the continuing archaeological process which has currently been extended a further two weeks."

**FIRM AWARDS:** The 2016 Kingston Business Excellence Awards are open for entries. The ceremony celebrates innovation and success in the borough's business community. Categories include commitment to the community, best customer service, best start-up business, entrepreneur of the year, best business for food, hospitality and leisure and independent retailer of the year. For more information and to nominate a business visit [kingstonawards.co.uk](http://kingstonawards.co.uk).

**BRAZIL PARADE:** A Kingston martial arts school is holding a Brazilian-themed festival to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Axe Capoeira UK, based in Siddeley House, will be parading through the town centre on July 23 and 24. The festival will feature a range of Brazilian themed live acts and workshops in anticipation for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

**ASSAULT CASE:** A 31-year-old man who admitted assaulting a woman on Christmas Day last year must carry out unpaid work for 150 hours in 12 months. Shehryar Ahmed, of Excelsior Close in Kingston, was ordered to pay costs of £310 after pleading guilty to the assault in Tolworth Broadway. He was sentenced at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on April 14.

**TRY YOGA:** The curious can try out hot yoga during an open day at Bikram Yoga in Victoria Road, Surbiton, from 7am on Saturday, April 30.

**MORE NEWS AT KINGSTONGUARDIAN.CO.UK**

## Are council's dinky double yellow lines the shortest in the capital?



Dinky: Double yellow lines in Berrylands

DOES Kingston have a contender for the shortest double yellow lines in the capital?

Kingston Council painted the lines, which even some toy cars would

struggle to squeeze onto fully, in Ferguson Avenue last Friday, residents said.

But this is not the first time the authority has come under fire for paint-

ing in very short parking restrictions.

In 2014 tiny, curved double yellows were painted behind Metro Bank and the Wheelwright Arms in Kingston.

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Care home in New Malden wins awards

Speirs House, a nursing home in New Malden, became the winner of two important awards at the Greensleeves Care Awards on 12 April. The home won 'Home of the Year Award' while Comfort Boatemaa won 'Carer of the Year Award'.

The home competed for these awards against 19 other care homes owned and managed by the award-winning charity, Greensleeves Care. The staff at Speirs House were delighted to be recognised for their hard work and commitment to providing outstanding care for their residents.

Heather Said, Home Manager at Speirs House said:

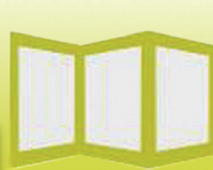
"Seeing the reaction and excitement of our staff when they heard that our home had won the Home of the Year Award made all our hard work more than worthwhile."

Greensleeves Care has recently adopted a new brand to emphasise its 'friendly' care ethos with the byline 'You're among friends'. The care charity changed its name from Greensleeves Homes Trust to Greensleeves Care to reflect the primary emphasis on care it provides to residents in 20 care homes across England.

For more information about Speirs House or Greensleeves Care, please visit [www.greensleeves.org.uk](http://www.greensleeves.org.uk)



Photo (from left to right): David Thomas, Administrator; Mahenge (Eli) Elingo, Registered Nurse; Bahee Thavathesan, Care Assistant; Comfort Boatemaa, Care Assistant who won 'Carer of the Year Award'; Heather Said, Home Manager



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Hard luck: Bridie takes the stage

## Not judges' cup of tea

A 10ft-tall dancing tea lady known for showcasing her moves at the Surbiton Festival looked to kick-start her journey to fame this weekend, only to be scuppered by an unimpressed Simon Cowell.

Bridie, real name Julie Simpson, who dances on stilts while pushing her tea trolley, appeared on the popular ITV variety show *Britain's Got Talent* on Saturday to prove her skills to the show's millions of viewers.

But the 45-year-old was met with bemusement by celebrity judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David

Walliams and Alesha Dixon – who all “buzzed” her off stage before she could even finish her act.

Bridie left the stage before she could hear the judges' comments.

Music mogul Mr Cowell simply said “it doesn't get much worse than that”, while former actress Mrs Holden bemoaned how “we didn't even get a cup of tea”.

Bridie is best known in the borough for her appearances at the Surbiton Festival, an annual carnival over two weeks celebrating everything weird and wonderful from the town.

## Doctors did not give woman ‘best chance of survival’ Medical staff ‘failed to help shopkeeper’

REPORTER

ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

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A “KIND-hearted” shopkeeper died after doctors and nurses failed 18 times in four hours to give treatment at Kingston Hospital.

Kamalalaginidvi Pararajasingham, 58, who ran Food Fare in Surbiton with her husband, died from sepsis last November.

Last week, family members at the inquest into her death raised concerns over the delay in starting treatment.

Coroner Chinyere Inyama concluded there were “missed opportunities” to “provide treatment that might have altered the outcome”.

No medication was given to Mrs Pararajasingham of Selbourne Avenue, before she died on November 18, because a string of medical staff could not insert a cannula in order to give intravenous drugs. She eventually went into cardiac arrest.

Two doctors told West London Coroner's Court it was a



Tragic: Mrs Pararajasingham

case which has led to a sepsis protocol overhaul.

Consultant Emily Ormerod told the family: “We completely and wholly accept we did not give your mother the best chance of survival.”

“People were so bogged down in getting the line in, they forgot why they were doing it in the first place.”

The court heard due to staffs' repeated attempts to insert a cannula, regular observations were interrupted and signs of sepsis went unnoticed. Jane Wilson, medical director at Kingston Hospital, apologised to the family

for Mrs Pararajasingham's death.

She added: “We recognise, as the coroner has found, that we failed to provide Mrs Pararajasingham with the care that she needed.”

Mrs Pararajasingham's daughter, Suji Sululsa Pararajasingham, who is also a doctor, told the court of her mother's early life in Jaffna, Sri Lanka and of her eventual move to the UK to settle in Surbiton.

She said: “Much like her name, which means lotus, she was unique. She remained honest and kind-hearted. She helped many people by sacrificing her own wealth and happiness.”

The family's solicitor, Sita Soni, said: “It is utterly tragic that a 58-year-old woman experienced a string of failures to provide her with basic care and medication. Mrs Pararajasingham's family have been left devastated by her death, and whilst the inquest has provided some answers, there are still concerns about the care Mrs Pararajasingham received before she died.”

**DRIVER BAN:** A drink driver who admitted driving while almost three times over the limit has been ordered to pay £260 and take on 80 hours of unpaid work. Lacey Adams, from Shrewsbury Road, Carshalton, pleaded guilty to driving drunk in Penrhyn Road on New Year's Day. She was also banned from driving for 23 months at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on April 14.

**MURDER MAP:** A ‘murder map’ created by a former Old Bailey court reporter lets you explore grisly deaths across the capital. Peter Stubley set up the website that shows where people were poisoned, stabbed, shot, strangled, hit by a car or beaten to death in all the boroughs of London. The website has information dating back to 1811 and is still being added to. Kingston cases include the murder of North Korean Myung Chul Jang who was stabbed to death in 2009 in New Malden by his boss and Margaret Sheehy who was strangled by her son Sean Heiss in Kingston in 2012. Find more information at murdermap.co.uk.

**GUILTY PLEA:** A drink driver was ordered to pay costs of £120 after he was found to be driving with almost double the legal amount of alcohol in his blood. William Pool, of Chessington Hall Gardens, pleaded guilty to driving in Fairfield South in Kingston while drunk on February 3. The 26-year-old was disqualified from driving for 12 months at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on April 13.

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5,649 packages provided to struggling families, a reduction of over 200

## Fewer families asking for emergency foodbank help

REPORTER

ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

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KINGSTON'S foodbank provided 200 fewer emergency food packages to hungry families than last year, but the total was still well over 5,500.

In Kingston 5,649 emergency food packages provided help to struggling families in the 2015-16 financial year, whereas the previous year saw 5,866 bundles given out.

The number of people requiring emergency help has gone down in the borough, but more than 5,500 food packages were still required.

Paul Pickhaver, director of Kingston Foodbank, said: "27.7 per cent of referrals related to issues with benefit payment, compared to 19.7 per cent in 2014 to 2015, and 9.1 per cent gave unemployment as the crisis, compared to 5.5 per cent the previous year."

For 2015 to 2016 the Trussell Trust gave out 1,109,309 of these packages, a two per cent rise on the year previously.

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry said: "During my 'volunteering week' in September I spent a day with Kingston Foodbank - visiting one of their welcome centres and helping gather feedback from clients on the new fuel bank pilot.



**Foodbank: Kingston saw a slight drop in emergency handouts**

"Meeting the dedicated volunteers and talking to local people whose lives have been helped with food and fuel vouchers was inspiring, as was seeing the generosity of local people who regularly donate food."

He added: "Yesterday's official figures show me that unemployment is down in Kingston by 50 per cent since March 2010, and four per cent since last March, and with 924 people claiming JSA. That's a record low."

Mr Berry said he plans to hold a homelessness summit to discuss preventing rough sleeping in Kingston.

Kingston has slightly bucked the

trend of national statistics released by the Trussell Trust which show that year on year, the amount of three-day emergency food supplies has increased.

David McAuley, chief executive, said: "Today's figures on national foodbank use prove that the numbers of people hitting a crisis where they cannot afford to buy food are still far too high."

"One million three-day food supplies given out by our foodbanks every year is one million too many. This must not become the new normal."

There are 424 foodbanks operating in partnership with churches and communities.

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Cake win: Charlotte McKenzie

## Bake battle in Surbiton

A SURBITON Farmers' Market bake-off saw a variety of cakes and bakes made by professional and amateur bakers.

Mary Berry wannabes were asked to enter a cake or cupcake with the brief stating: "Whether you're fab at fondant fancies or a dab hand at Dundee cake, batty about Battenbergs or a whiz with walnut loaves, bring your masterpiece to the market".

The three competition categories saw amateur cooks, professional chefs and children aged under 12 enter on Saturday, April 16.

The judges – Bill Williamson and Elyse Savage – crowned Georgia Adams the winner of the amateur category with Victoria Anderson as the runner-up.

# Council leader says party are 'claiming credit' for existing consideration

## Lib Dems campaign to use care home for homeless

REPORTER  
**ELLIE CAMBRIDGE**  
ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk



KINGSTON'S Liberal Democrats have begun a campaign for a vacant Norbiton care home to become emergency housing, instead of being sold off by the council.

The campaign argues the property at 22 Gloucester Road should be used for five years to house homeless families in Kingston.

Councillor Patricia Bamford, leading the charge, hopes to persuade Kingston Council to keep the building for a few more years before selling.

She said: "Keeping 22 Gloucester Road for emergency housing is a no-brainer."

"Within five years, the amount the council would save on putting people in bed and breakfast out of the borough would be paid back."

"And in five years' time, we could look again at the



Emergency plan: 22 Gloucester Road

council's finances and make an informed decision to continue using it for emergency housing or sell for a capital receipt.

"We must build the new homes that meet local need."

The former care home, vacant since June 2015, has 16 bedrooms and a large garden with trees and shrubs.

look at whether this property should be used for housing the homeless.

"What the council is currently doing is looking at the viability of this as neither the Lib Dems or us know whether this will work."

"This seems a little bit like campaigning for something, knowing it is already happening and then claiming credit for it afterwards."

Minutes for a meeting on February 3 of the growth committee show councillors across all parties voted to approve making 22 Gloucester Road surplus to requirement, as well as Nobkirk House and Noble Resource Centre in Blagdon Road and Newant House in Brown's Road.

The council estimated about £209,835 would be saved by not maintaining the properties, recorded in the minutes, but Cllr Davis said a verbal agreement was made at the meeting to "understate the exercise of exploring the use of the building for another use".

## Support for victims of quake

A GROUP of Kingston environmentalists hosted a party to support those affected by the earthquake in Ecuador.

The Kingston Environment Centre in Kingston Road held the event last Friday for the Nepalese new year, with all money raised being donated to the earthquake relief appeal.

On Saturday, April 16, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake decimated the coast of Ecuador, leaving at least 507 people dead and 4,027 injured.

Ex-Gurkha Gam Gurung, who hosted the party, said: "I hope lots of people will come and experience Nepalese song, music and dance and sample my home made vegetarian Nepalese food."

"Many people just don't know how to help, but in this way we can have fun and pull together our pennies to really help people out there"

The evening rounded out with a vegetarian BBQ, with all ingredients organic, home-grown and homemade.

Last year, the centre raised £3,500 for the Nepal Earthquake of April 2015, which killed 8,964 people. Half of funds raised this year will be donated to Nepal.

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# Greyhound racers' Plough Lane stadium lease is extended

## New headache for AFC

**REPORTER**  
**JON MITCHELL**  
jonathan.mitchell@london.newsquest.co.uk



KINGSTONIAN'S ground sharers AFC Wimbledon suffered another setback in their bid to build a new stadium in Merton, after greyhound racers had their Plough Lane stadium lease extended.

The Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium was due to officially close on

Saturday, June 18, with AFC Wimbledon set to demolish the site and begin building its own ground in Plough Lane.

But last month London Mayor Boris Johnson decided to call in AFC's planning application to build the stadium due to "significant issues of controversy" – raising questions as to whether the move will go ahead.

The greyhound stadium has now secured

a six-month extension to its lease with owner Galliard Homes, with the possibility of a two-year rolling contract if AFC Wimbledon's plans are finally rejected.

AFC planned to sell the lease to Kingsmeadow – the ground they currently share with Kingstonian – to Premier League champions Chelsea, leaving Ks facing the prospect of having to find a new ground

by the start of the 2018 season. The consultation on the plans, which include an 11,000 seater stadium which will be expanded to 20,000 seats, 602 flats, and leisure facilities will begin again after the mayoral election on Thursday, May 5.

AFC chairman Eric Samuelson said: "We're still planning for a summer 2018 opening. This hasn't helped, but we can do it."

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# More assistance needed to reduce sickness in stressful role

## Workers handling 999 calls 'need more help'

**REPORTER**  
**ELLIE CAMBRIDGE**  
ellie.cambridge@  
london.newsquest.co.uk



A RESEARCHER at Kingston University has found staff who co-ordinate emergency services for 999 calls to the ambulance service need help to reduce stress and sickness absences.

Professor Tom Quinn, from the faculty of health, social care and education at Kingston and St George's University of London, was part of a team of experts who interviewed dispatch staff.

The teams are in charge of sending paramedics to emergencies from control centres.

The researchers found that although dispatchers find their job rewarding, they often feel overworked and undervalued compared to how they perceive the people who work on the front line at emergencies.

The research, which Kingston's Professor Quinn was involved in, was commissioned after concerns were raised that ambulance control staff had sickness leave at twice the national average.

Professor Quinn said dispatch-



**Stretched:** Call centre staff

ers worked in a highly unpredictable job, over which they had no control.

He added: "Dispatchers are faceless compared to frontline staff, but they are a tribe of unsung heroes working in similar conditions to air traffic controllers and the public often don't understand the importance of their jobs."

"They may not be seen as heroes like paramedics and firefighters, but they are the ones ensuring that appropriate medical care reaches people in emergen-

cies, and frequently provide potentially lifesaving advice while an ambulance is en route."

The research, which involved academic experts from the University of East Anglia, the University of Surrey and Anglia Ruskin University, has been published in the Emergency Medicine Journal.

It recommends implementing more opportunities for dispatchers, paramedics and emergency service crews to understand each other's jobs, including shadowing on shifts.

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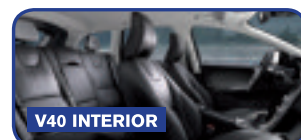
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# Motability



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### Should parking on pavements be banned nationwide?

When London, urban and sub-urban communities were designed 100 years ago, it was never envisaged that every family would have a motor vehicle. Even 50 years ago it was never envisaged that many households would have at least two, maybe three. Where do people expect all these vehicles to be parked?

AGAMEMNON AND CASSANDRA

Yes, of course. When I was a proper police traffic warden we enforced it across the whole of London. It hinders pedestrians (especially the blind), damages pavements and it's not necessary.

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the 'report this post' function online next to the comment.

## A mess of their own making

FURTHER to your article on building more social housing, the ruling Conservative administration is in a mess of its own making which is why it is having to consider building 879 private homes on the Cambridge Road Estate.

Set on a course to save nearly £12 billion to rebalance the welfare state, it is the Conservative government who have reduced benefits and frozen all other working age benefits.

Cutting benefits for those on lower incomes has in turn forced the government to lower council rents and the council now finds itself short of rent by £9.4 million over four years and is unsustainable.

The hole in the council's finances has now forced the Conservative administration to delay major works programmes that the Liberal Democrats put in place under the Better Homes programme to bring council homes up to a decent standard.

Equally, if the Conservatives go ahead with policies to flog off our high-value council houses and their stupid Right to Buy policy this will in turn lower the capacity of Kingston Council to tackle waiting lists.

With the announcement of plans for the Cambridge Road Estate, the Conservative leader of the council, Cllr Kevin Davis intends to "increase density" on the estate. While we haven't seen the feasibility study, we must be alert to make sure he doesn't now give away council land and assets belonging to



Candy Dubonet sent in this photo of a dog and his owners enjoying the sun near Ravens Ait. To see your photo in Borough View email it, along with details of where you took it, to [rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk)

residents to a developer to maximise profit and sell homes locals cannot afford.

**CLLR PATRICIA BAMFORD**  
 Liberal Democrat spokes-  
 person for housing

## Bike boost

THERE have been several complaints recently about Kingston's 'mini-Holland' scheme, particularly the new cycle lane on Portsmouth Road.

Inevitably, while it is being constructed there will be disruption to traffic, and the road will indeed be narrowed by the cycle lane.

If this slows down traffic and reduces overtaking in a busy suburban area that is not necessarily a bad thing.

But, more significantly, the aim of these new segregated cycle lanes is to encourage more people, including children and reluctant and nervous cyclists, to give cycling a go – not, as last week's letter suggested, to cater for sports cyclists, who on the whole are experienced and fearless cyclists who will cycle whatever the conditions.

If more people felt confident and safe enough to cycle, not only would they be fitter but our roads would be less congested with cars and our air would be cleaner – benefitting everyone, even drivers.

**MARILYN MASON**  
 Chair, Kingston Environment  
 Forum

## Janet search

IN JUNE the Kingston Methodist Church will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee of moving to the church on the Fairfield in 1966 and we would like to contact Janet Haskell who was, at that time, the youngest church member.

She has since moved away and we have lost contact with her.

If you can help us contact Janet, or have your own memories of your time at KMC, please contact us through our website at [kingstonmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://kingstonmethodistchurch.org.uk).

**JENNIE WIDDOWSON**  
 Via email

# Campaign for safe cycle lanes

OVER many years, local members of the Kingston Cycling Campaign have been advocating that Kingston Council implement protected cycle lanes, lanes that are physically separate from traffic on main roads which will be safe.

We have been calling for safe facilities so that people who are

currently too scared to ride on busy roads will begin to see cycling as a viable way of travelling from A to B, with multiple benefits including that traffic is taken off the roads, public transport is less congested and activity levels are increased.

Boris Johnson, as the Mayor of London, has provided fund-

ing for such routes through the 'mini-Holland' programme, and we are pleased to see the first construction on the side of the Portsmouth Road.

We want the next Mayor, whoever that may be, to continue to invest in safe cycle paths, create bike-friendly town centres across London and end the dan-

ger posed to riders by lorries.

We would urge readers of the *Surrey Comet* and *Guardian* to call on the mayoral candidates and would-be assembly members to pledge support for safer cycling using our online petition at [signforcycling.org](http://signforcycling.org).

**JON FRAY**  
 Kingston Cycling Campaign

## Why do golfers feel the need to be such miserable gits?

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

### 5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. Why do golfers feel they need to be such miserable gits? They're out in the fresh air, presumably playing a game they love, they've obviously got loads of cash and even have free licence to wear some pretty outrageous clothing. And yet, they act as if the world's about to end. Out on my bike, I exchange pleasantries with dog walkers, horse riders and any number of passersby, but dare to say good morning to a golfer and you're treated with disdain – get over yourselves, you're not as important as you think you are.
2. The high-rise building opposite our office is being demolished. I was hoping for

dynamite and a huge cloud of dust. However, they're taking a different approach. They used a massive crane to lift two huge diggers onto the 18th floor which then started tearing into the concrete. Basically these machines are knocking apart the floor on which they are actually parked. Always fancied the idea of driving a digger, not now!

3. People love bad news – if they read bad things about others, it make them feel better about themselves. But even I, a hardened newspaper editor, feel the steady stream of

doom and gloom has reached a peak. We're never going to be able to ignore murders, but it's time to try and inject a little more joy into the news.

4. eBay used to be a brilliant website. It had everything and the auction element only added to the excitement. But now, shifting its customer service operation to the Philippines and treating customers with disdain it has become just like all the other large, faceless websites which care about no-one – very sad.



5. Finally, if you want to witness sport as it should be then you need look no further than the British Motocross meeting at Canada Heights at the weekend. Host Sidcup Motorcycle Club is basically a friendly, local, amateur committee which does a brilliant job of producing one of the most professional, enjoyable events of the year. Well done all of you, with a special mention to my good friend Brian Edwards.

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# THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

**THEATRE** – **Footloose at New Wimbledon Theatre from Monday to Saturday (May 2 to 7):** Kick off your Sunday shoes and cut loose at the wildly popular musical with a cast including 911's Lee Brennan and Maureen Nolan and featuring hits including Holding Out For a Hero, Let's Hear It For the Boy and, of course, Footloose. Tickets cost from £17.90. Go to [atg-tickets.com/wimbledon](http://atg-tickets.com/wimbledon)

**COMEDY** – **Richard Herring – Happy Now at The Secombe, Sutton, on Friday:** Influential comedian Richard Herring brings his latest show to Sutton. Tickets cost £17.50. Go to [suttontheatres.co.uk](http://suttontheatres.co.uk)  
**CLUB** – **Foam Party at Tunnel267, Wimbledon, from 10pm to 3am on Sunday:** Get caught up in the bubbles with DJs from 12.30am and drinks deals including buckets of Corona for £20 and

two-for-one cocktails. Entry costs £5. Go to [tunnel267.com](http://tunnel267.com)  
**FILM** – **Son of Saul (15), out Friday:** The winner of scores of awards, including the Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars, is finally released in this country. Set in Auschwitz in 1944, a prisoner is forced to burn the corpses of other prisoners and tries to save the body of a body he takes for his son from the flames.

**DANCE** – **A Touch of Class – An Audience with Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe at Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on Sunday:** The Strictly Come Dancing duo team up for a dazzling mix of ballroom and Latin performances. Tickets cost £25.50 or £27.50, or £35.50/£37.50 for a meet and greet with Ian and Natalie. Go to [Fairfield.co.uk](http://Fairfield.co.uk)

**RICHARD HERRING**



## What's on

Any chart of unlikely pop reunions would have Busted somewhere near the top. The early 2000s three-piece may not have been at each other's throats but it was clear there was little appetite to work together again any time before the Year 3000.

But now it has happened – the two-time Brit winners are back and are set to play two shows at The O2 in May and the Jockey Club Live's Evening at the Races at Sandown Park in July.

Charlie Simpson, who left the band in 2005, said: "All of us didn't think it would happen again. "We sort of grew out of each other's lives but started reconnecting a couple of years back."

The seeds of the reunion were planted when former bandmates Matt Willis and James Bourne met Charlie two years ago to persuade him to rejoin. Though he declined, Charlie said it was an 'embryonic moment'. Charlie said: "I was hanging out with James and we were playing music to each other and we found we had this musical common ground that we didn't think we had before. The whole thing has been a very organic process."

For Charlie, the prospect of new music was key to his participation. While the three were reconnecting – and before the reunion was officially announced – they recorded what will be their third album when it is released in the autumn.

Charlie said: "We're very focussed on the tour right now but then we are working on new music and that is going to be a very exciting thing for us to get people reactions to."

"I think people will be expecting something different. We just set out to write some good songs because at the base of it, that's what we try to do."

When James and Matt toured with McFly as McBusted from 2013 to 2015, they became known for their show-stopping live performances featuring giant inflatable triple boobs, flying DeLoreans and levitating spaceships (references to their song Year 3000) and Charlie said Busted are planning big once again.

He said: "It's pretty nerve-wracking putting shows this big and we had no idea what the reaction would be like."

"We found out that the first wave of shows had sold out and we're adding extra shows – that's a great feeling. It's pretty overwhelming."

**Busted's Pigs Can Fly tour is at the O2 on May 27 and 28 and the band plays Jockey Club Live's An Evening at the Races at Sandown Park Racecourse on July 20. Go to [axs.com](http://axs.com) or [thejockeyclublive.co.uk](http://thejockeyclublive.co.uk).**



**SANDOWN PARK**

**CHARLIE SIMPSON**

**MATT WILLIS**

**JAMES BOURNE**

Busted's Charlie Simpson talks to JIM PALMER about how the band got back together ahead of their Pigs Can Fly tour which takes in the O2 Arena and Sandown Park...

# BUSTED BACK ON TRACK



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# STORIES LAID BARE

An Epsom photographer's inspiring book of boobs is being adapted for the stage.

Laura Dodsworth spent two years photographing and interviewing women aged 19 to 101 about their breasts, bodies and lives for the book *Bare Reality*.

It was featured on TV and talk shows around the world and raised money for Breast Cancer UK. Among the women featured were a Buddhist nun, a burlesque dancer, a female vicar and cancer survivors.

Now *Bare Reality* is being brought to life on stage at Bourne Hall in Ewell in June as part of the MGS04 Epsom and Ewell Arts Festival.

Matrix Theatre Company's Sally McCormack is adapting and directing the show which presents women's experiences about growing up, sexual relationships,

breastfeeding, health problems, insecurities, surgery, ageing and more.

Laura Dodsworth said: "I'm excited to be staging the first theatrical performance of *Bare Reality* at MGS04 Festival in my home town.

"It's completely in keeping with the spirit of *Bare Reality* that I am collaborating with two brilliant women, Sally McCormack and Susy Puckett.

"I always felt, from the very beginning, that the stories in *Bare Reality* would work perfectly on stage - they are moving, surprising, funny and, above all, human.

"I'm so pleased we are bringing this vision to life and can't wait to share it."

**Bare Reality premieres at Bourne Hall, Ewell, on Saturday, June 25. More details at [mgs04festival.org](http://mgs04festival.org)**



LAURA DODSWORTH



# HEALTHY OPTIONS

Healthy fast food chain Pod has teamed up with nutritionist Helen Money to produce its pod-activity report which gives advice on how to eat the right things to suit your lifestyle...

**CREATIVES** (marketing, advertising, PR, journalism or are artists, DJs or even City traders): Creatives should pack in lots of fruit and veg. Breakfast should contain slow-release carbs to fuel the brain and lift energy, such as oats, nuts and seeds. High sugar and high fat foods will cause sluggishness. Foods high such as red meat, eggs, fish, poultry seeds and almonds - calm the brain and aid sleep. Foods with pantothenic acid (Vitamin B5) such as corn and chicken can help with stress. **Breakfast idea:** Porridge with banana and pumpkin seeds. **Snack idea:** Berry yoghurt. **Dinner idea:** Fish with roasted Mediterranean vegetables and spinach.

**OFFICE ANGELS** (desk-based, admin and support staff): Office Angels need a few carb-free and more protein can keep them fuller and stop them hitting the biscuit tin or vending machine. An ideal breakfast is a green smoothie or scrambled egg and avocado. A snack plan is essential, with desk drawers stuffed with go-to snacks such as nuts and oatcakes. **Breakfast idea:** Scrambled egg with smoked salmon and super seeds with wholegrain toast. **Snack idea:** 4 tbsp low fat plain live yoghurt, 3 tbsp raspberries and tsp chia seeds. **Dinner idea:** Tuna steak, sweet potato wedges, spinach and broccoli.

**HIGH FLYERS** (desk-based, working long hours with high brain output, stress - investment bankers, lawyers, accountants, IT and analysts): High flyers need low levels of sustained energy but good cognitive function. Breakfast should be slow-release carbs and protein such as eggs, salmon, spinach and wholegrain toast. It's a mix of energy, omega 3 and antioxidants for cognitive function and pantothenic acid for stress. Lunch should be light and easy to digest, especially if you have a meeting at lunchtime. **Breakfast idea:** Porridge with banana topping. **Snack idea:** Fruit salad pot. **Dinner idea:** Beef stir fry with wholegrain rice.

**KEY WORKERS** (emergency workers, nurses, doctors, teachers and taxi drivers): Work rate and schedules can be unpredictable with quiet periods interspersed with acute stress, long hours and often overnight working. Your diet should be packed with stress-busting food such as nuts, seeds, green leafy vegetables and whole grains to support the nervous system. Turkey, eggs and mushrooms can help lower anxiety and love yoghurt can aid healthy gut bacteria. **Lunch idea:** a wholegrain-based salad with eggs or chicken, seeds and vegetables to provide sustained energy rather than peaks or troughs. **Snack idea:** A pot of live yoghurt, berries and seeds or a smoothie.

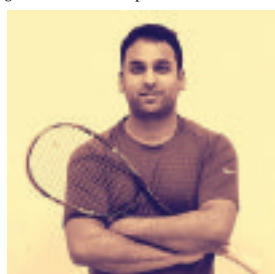


## New Malden Sports Club

### Success is in the air at New Malden Sports Club.

Over the last few years New Malden Sports Club through the help and support of volunteers have achieved a remarkable success within its junior ranks and have produced a succession of players who are playing at county standard for Surrey.

With our juniors in squash, through the (Victory Junior Academy) masterminded by Vic Baker, a veteran of the squash circuit and supported by our coach "Roshan Mawar", who was recently short listed for the "U.K. Club Squash Coach Of The Year" and others, have not only been able to encourage some outstanding players but can boast the largest number of junior players now playing for Surrey. Who knows where this will lead, as our juniors extend their abilities to even higher levels of confidence and determination enjoying their squash and benefitting from the great exercise the sport delivers.



So! It is a case of watch this space, and maybe we may have a world beater within our own club ready to take on the squash fraternity worldwide.

Likewise, our tennis section with 9 courts is also gaining success with some interesting younger players coming through, and hopefully with improvements to our courts sponsored by a grant from the SITA Trust, will continue to produce some good players in the footsteps of Fred Perry who is recorded as winning various tournaments on these hallowed grounds, and in recent years seen many other names emerge out of our club onto the international circuit.

With approximately a 1000 members at New Malden Sports Club engaged in numerous activities ranging from Tennis, Squash, Badminton, Racket Ball, Gym and social (for less active) has seen many changes from its concept which goes back over 90 years from its origins when it was referred to as Courtlands which may of derived from Tennis - Court Lands to the present day. Since then with a number of name changes it still remains a unique club owned and supported by its members and still retains an atmosphere that very few clubs can emanate.

New Malden Sports Club is now, with the help of various sponsors, is looking forward to improved facilities and with the future looking bright would like to extend to all (especially young families) the opportunity to come along for a chat and to see what we are able to offer. Our gym may just have the right class for you, whatever your age. You will find

that New Malden Sports Club is in an outstanding location within easy reach of Worcester Park, Raynes Park, New Malden and Berrylands being on the junction of the A3 at Worcester Park and New Malden.



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# REVIEW CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

BY MARK FOKER

Civil War sees Marvel's favourite Marvel superheroes at loggerheads, but why this rift between friends and colleagues?

The plot is fairly simple. Captain America/Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) is now leading the newly formed Avengers team fighting on behalf of mankind to make the world a safer place.

The film opens with the team in Lagos battling to defeat a band of terrorists led by ex-Shield operative Brock Rumlow (Frank Grillo) last seen fighting with Falcon AKA Sam Wilson (Anthony Mackie) in The Winter Soldier now facially disfigured and under the name of Crossbones.

But saving the World comes

at a cost. While battling with the bad guys, innocent residents die. Political pressure mounts to install a system of accountability for the Avengers headed by a governing body and the United Nations to oversee and direct the team.

This new status quo does not sit well with Captain America and fractures the Avengers resulting in two camps - one led by Rogers and his desire for the Avengers to remain free to defend humanity without government interference and the other by Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.)/Tony Stark's surprising decision to support government after his guilt trip with the creation of Ultron.

Following Avengers Assemble, Age of Ultron the Iron Man and Captain America stand-alone saga's the Marvel storylines could have started to turn a bit stale but with the creative direction of the Russo brothers and the writing skills of Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely the film rarely lets you catch your breath.

Anthony and Joe Russo also directed the action-packed The Winter Soldier and take this third adventure into darker, and quite violent territory, but that's not to say it doesn't have Marvel's trademark humorous moments.

We have the usual Tony Stark quips but the highlight of the

film for many fans is the inclusion of two of the most likeable characters - Ant-Man and our own friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man.

Paul Rudd is a wise-cracking Ant-Man, starstruck at meeting his idol Captain America, while south London actor Tom Holland pretty much steals the show after being recruited by Team Iron Man.

As Falcon points out to Spidey in mid-fight: "There's usually not this much talk!"

As an audience, we are left unsure which team to side with as they are broken up with some of our favourite characters in both camps.

## ALLABOARD

The Big Dance Bus will pull in to Sutton this summer with a 'pop-up ballroom and ready-made rave' to get families moving and shaking.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Big Dance Festival, a red double-decker Routemaster has been transformed into a mobile venue complete with its own dancefloor, DJ, MC, sound system and resident dance company.

It will be touring the capital from May with a mix of professional performances, free classes for all ages and showcases from local talent and promises something for everyone from the Charleston to the Jive, disco, 90s rave, Hip Hop Hula and more. The bus comes to Sutton from noon to 5pm on Saturday, July 9.

Anyone interested in performing on the bus needs to get in touch with Big Dance by e-mailing [bigdancebus@gmail.com](mailto:bigdancebus@gmail.com) by Friday, April 29.

Details in the e-mail should include: The name of group / Style / Age of group / Where you are based / Any video links to your work / Contact telephone number / Any access requirements and Location: Sutton.



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**LICK OF PAINT:** It might sound cosmetic but a coat of new paint (keep the colour neutral) can make a house feel clean, hygienic and cared for.

**ADD SOME PARKING:** If you have a tatty front garden and you live in a town or city, it could be worth converting the space into an off-road parking area.

**GET PLANNING PERMISSION:**

A property that comes with planning permission can often tempt buyers who have long-term ambitions for the property. Pay an architect to draw up plans for an extension, spend a bit of time getting them through planning and you could find yourself with a very desirable property (allow at least £2,500 to cover architect and council planning fees). Again, it's about giving your property an edge over others.

**CONVERT THE GARAGE INTO AN OFFICE:**

A lot of garages are no longer fit for purpose, having been designed when cars were smaller. Find out what buyers are looking for in your area: is it houses with lots of bedrooms (families), or properties with an office (young professionals)?

**CONVERT THE LOFT:** According to recent research by Savills, a good loft conversion can add 10 to 15 per cent to the value of a London home (valued at £1million

Ten ways to breathe new life into a home...

## LOOKSMART

to £1.5million) and five to 10 per cent in the rest of the UK (for homes valued at £500,000 to £1million). Make sure you don't eat into existing living space and remember to tell your insurer if you are using the space for another bedroom. Costs vary.

**ADD A CONSERVATORY:**

The key to a successful conservatory is to ensure that it flows from your existing rooms, rather than looking as if it's just been tacked on to the outside. Savills suggests a good one could add as much as 12 per cent to the value of your home in London. Expect to pay anything from £5,000 to £15,000.

**INSTALL A NEW KITCHEN:**

The kitchen is what most house-hunters will look at first. Sparkling work surfaces and new appliances can woo a wavering buyer. Read research from OnTheMarket.com about

how the Mary Berry Effect is influencing buyers towards a modern kitchen. An average new kitchen costs £8,000 and can add six per cent to your property's value, according to consumer watchdog Which?. The current trend is for open-plan living, so make sure your kitchen has a sense of space.

**SIDE RETURN:**

Converting a side return into a useful space is often an easy way to create an airy, open-plan kitchen or reception area but it can cost more than you think. Victorian town houses are particularly prone to having a dingy passageway running down the side of the property and this can be a good way to utilise the space. It can certainly add the wow factor and help properties to sell quickly. It can add five to ten per cent in city locations, according to Savills.

**ADD AN EXTRA BATHROOM:**

Bigger houses need more bathrooms, particularly family homes. Nobody likes to queue in the morning. "The view is that more value is added relative to cost in a bigger property where a good bathroom count is really important," says Robin Chatwin, Head of Savills, south west London. Make sure all your existing bathrooms are spotless, too – it sets the right tone.

According to Bathstore.com, the average cost of a new bathroom in the UK is £4,500 – but expect to pay a lot more. "One of the simplest ways to upgrade a family bathroom, if space allows, is to install a separate shower cubicle next to the bath," adds Chatwin. "People would far rather have both and will pay a small premium – and cubicles are relatively straightforward to fit, too."



**DIG OUT A BASEMENT:** It's not cheap but in cities where the price per sq ft is high, returns can be considerable. Work on the basis that it will cost £300 to £500 per sq ft to dig out and fit a basement and then see how that figure compares with your area. Alternatively, waterproof an existing basement space, paint it, and install some lighting and use it for storage or as a utility room. Much cheaper.

Whether you want to spend money on a basement, or are only prepared to fork out on a tin of new paint, there are lots of ways to add value and space to your home. And if you really don't want to spend anything at all, you could do worse than decluttering your property. It's amazing how much bigger a space can feel when all the stuff we don't need in life is removed.



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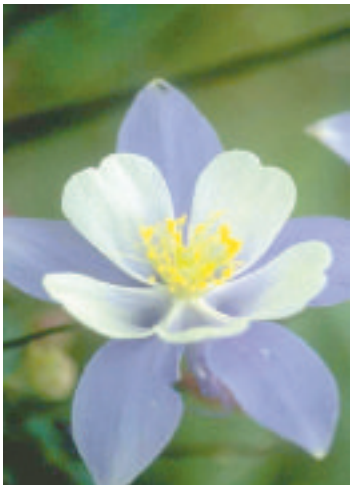
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**WHAT'S NEW?** Audi has stuck to its winning formula: take a smart premium estate, add its class-leading four-wheel-drive system, and then sell it to people who want a normal-shaped car that won't get stuck in wet grass. To date, the result has always been superb.

This time, the four-wheel-drive transmission has been radically altered to make the car lighter, more fuel efficient, and friendlier to the environment. Using what Audi calls 'Ultra' technology (their badge for anything vaguely 'green') the rally-born Quattro system has been brought into the 21st Century.

**LOOKS AND IMAGE:** The differences between the vanilla A4 and the A4 Allroad are more subtle than they ever have been. That's partly because the A4 is, overall, a more aggressive-looking car than it once was, with that distinctive gaping front grille full of angry vertical bars. The flared wheel arches have grown into themselves, and look far more upmarket when colour-matched than as matte plastic panels. The inside remains the same as the standard car - comfortable, well-constructed and generally pleasing.

Audi is the most upmarket mainstream Volkswagen Group brand and has always produced very desirable cars. While the other VW brands produce similar

soft-roader estates - the Seat Leon XPerience, the VW Passat Alltrack, and the Skoda Octavia Scout - the A4 Allroad is the top of the pile. It's also the most technologically accomplished, thanks to its clever Quattro transmission.

**SPACE AND PRACTICALITY:** Estate cars are functional vehicles, designed to carry more passengers and luggage than hatchbacks and saloons. The A4 Allroad has a 505-litre boot, which is capacious enough to carry dogs or large suitcases, expanding to 1,510 with the rear seats folded down. Those rear seats can feel cramped for taller adults, though, as the chunky back supports of the front seats encroach on rear legroom. Buyers looking to regularly carry four blokes in comfort could look elsewhere in Audi's range.

An optional load securing kit, electric boot lid with foot-gesture opening and an innovative trailer reversing system (which allows easier control of the pivot between you and your horsebox) are all practical additions, but will come at a price - Audi's options list is never cheap.

**BEHIND THE WHEEL:** Interestingly, Audi has been keen to downplay the off-road capabilities of the new A4 Allroad. It's true that the extra 34mm of ground clearance you get is unlikely to

## ON THE ROAD: Audi A4 Allroad Quattro



be enough for any serious mud-plugging, and this model's affluent customer base can afford to buy a Range Rover or more serious Audi off-roader if it wanted to.

But most of them know that a sophisticated four-wheel-drive estate is enough to get them through a British winter, without the need for something as gauche as an SUV.

And this four-wheel-drive system is certainly sophisticated. Unlike

the primitive permanent all-wheel-drive systems that made the Quattro name in the 1980s, and distinct from the systems found in other jacked-up estates, the Ultra system uses a powerful computer to evaluate road conditions and engage the rear axle at least half a second before it's needed.

What's more, a special system will disconnect any unused components of the drivetrain when they're not in use, saving you fuel.

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

Audi A4 Allroad Quattro

**Engine:** 2.0-litre TDI producing 190PS and 400Nm of torque

**Transmission:** 7-speed S tronic automatic gearbox

**Performance:** Top speed 136mph, 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds

**Economy:** 57.7mpg combined

**Emissions:** 128g/km



The interior of the A4 Allroad 2016. PA Photo/Handout.

The A4 Allroad feels as at-home on the German autobahn as it does around town. Only occasionally will the automatic gearbox feel sluggish or needlessly fidgety, and the drive modes - ranging from 'comfort' to

'dynamic' help you configure the car to your whims. 'Comfort' mode turns the A4 Allroad into a wafy wagon, while 'dynamic' will firm up the suspension force the auto 'box to cling on to gears.



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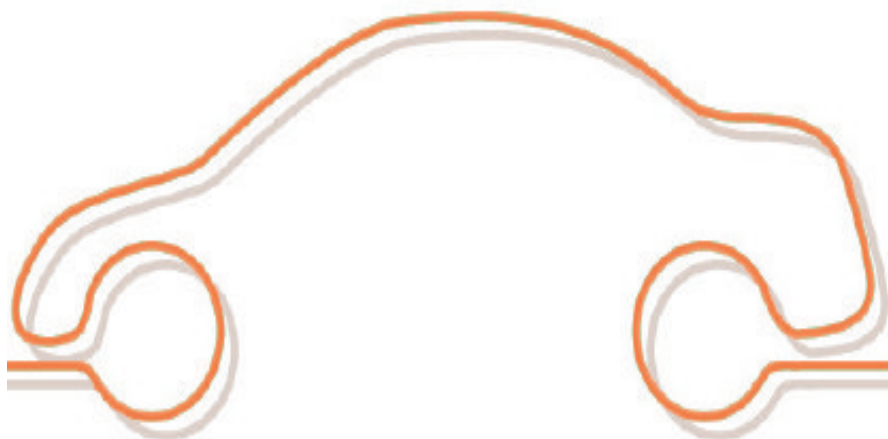
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The New Malden Team Parker Racing professional helped amateurs Ian Loggie and Callum Macleod take their Bentley Continental GT3 machine to a disappointing

35th place overall.

Onslow-Cole, 28, has signed to contest the entire five round series in the Pro-Am class, which continues at Silverstone on May 15.

Before that, Onslow-Cole resumes his 24 Hour Series GT3 Championship title defence with RAM Racing in the Netherlands on May 6.



Positive thinking: Ks stopper Rob Tolfrey

## Tolfs looks on the bright side

**GOALKEEPER** Rob Tolfrey believes progress has been made at Kingstonian despite boss Tommy Williams' men tossing their Ryman Premier League play-off chances away during the run-in, writes Stuart Amos.

Ks made it a fourth straight defeat with a 3-1 reverse at Merstham to end the season on a sour note, having seemed set for a top five finish after claiming the Alan Turvey Trophy on April 6.

They secured only a point following that triumph when 10 from five games against teams well below them in the table would have led to the play-offs.

But Tolfrey insisted fans should concentrate on the positives when it comes to reflecting on Williams' second season at the helm.

"Everyone is going to be disappointed with the last month of the season, but I think the club is progressing," he said.

"We have played better football this season and off the field the club is moving forward. You have to take the positives.

"We have won a cup – which we had never done in my time at the club – and we have finished higher in the league than we did last season.

"Regardless of what people are saying, playing five games in 15 days – while trying to hold down a job – catches up with you in the end and it took its toll."

Kingstonian Ladies can complete a perfect, invincible Surrey County Women's and Girls' League Premier Division campaign with two more wins on the road after rounding off their home campaign at the weekend with a 1-0 win over Abbey Rangers, thanks to a solitary Carolina Boltz strike.

## CORINTHIAN CASUALS: Bracken blasts "scandalous" Ryman League ruling

# Boss pulls no punches

**REPORTER**  
**TIM ASHTON**

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CORINTHIAN Casuals boss James Bracken described the decision to dock the club three points and rob them of a place in the Ryman Division One South play-offs as "scandalous".

On Friday morning, Casuals' fate was in their own hands and a win over Three Bridges would guarantee a play-off berth.

However, on Friday afternoon, the FA upheld a decision by the Ryman League to deduct three points for fielding an ineligible player.

The charge related to Dan Hodges' appearance in the 3-1 win over Faversham Town in January while he was still under suspension.

It meant that Casuals needed to beat Three Bridges – which they did 1-0 thanks to James Cottee's goal – and hope that both Faversham and Hastings United lost.

Hastings were beaten at home by Herne Bay, but Faversham beat Hythe Town to steal the final play-off spot, leaving Casuals one point behind in sixth.

Bracken said: "Every one of those players deserves to be in the play-offs.

"That's where my thoughts on the matter begin and end.

"We've done enough to get in the play-offs. We should be in the play-offs but we're not. The reasons are scandalous to say the least."

He added: "It's not about me, it's about the lads. I've enjoyed every minute of this season apart from maybe three halves of football.



Final roar: James Cottee celebrates his winner over Three Bridges on Saturday, but it was all to no avail after Corinthian Casuals were docked three points by the Ryman League for mistakenly fielding Dave Hodges, below, when the player was still under suspension

Pics: Stuart Tree

"Every minute of every game, they've done everything I've asked of them.

"They've worked their socks off for nothing and they deserved their rewards. That's what we set out to do, but we haven't got it.

"It's been a fantastic season. When I came here in the summer and said I'd get this team promoted, people looked at me like I was a lunatic.

"If we'd made the play-offs, we'd have won them. People might say it's easy to say that now, but when I'm wrong, you can pull me up on it.

"Until then, I'll say what I want to say, and that is we would've won it."



## Weir's wait continues

DAVID Weir will have to wait until next year in his bid to clinch that elusive record-breaking seventh London marathon wheelchair title, writes Ziad Chaudry.

The 36-year-old, who trains at Kingsmeadow, was beaten in a thrilling three-man sprint finish down The Mall by Switzerland's Marcel Hug in Sunday's T53/54 class race.

Hug claimed his second London title in one hour 35 minutes 19 seconds.

Weir, pictured, a six-time Paralympic gold medallist, said: "I thought I was in a good position, but I just didn't



have anything left.

"Some of the speeds Marcel was pushing were unbelievable and it's probably one of the toughest London marathons yet."

He added: "I try not to think about the seventh win. I should have won last year."

For the full interview go to [kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport](http://kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport).

## Wicks' dream dashed

Phil Wicks' dreams of qualifying for this summer's Olympic Games in Rio came to an abrupt halt on Sunday, writes Ziad Chaudry.

The Cobham-based runner pulled out of the London marathon after 22 miles ending any hopes of crossing the Atlantic in the summer.

Wicks, who runs with Belgrave Harriers, went into the 26.2 mile London race on the back of Maidenhead Easter 10 Miler victory last month.

The 32-year-old, who grew up in Worcester Park, said: "It was a difficult day for me.

"Unfortunately I've missed

too much training since Christmas.

"While everything was going well through half-way, I just didn't have it in my legs and had to make the difficult decision to stop at 22 miles."

He added: "I am absolutely gutted, but today was a massive gamble which unfortunately didn't pay off."

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge retained his men's title in two hours, three minutes, four seconds – just seven seconds outside the world record.

For more London marathon reaction go to [kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport](http://kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport).

## SPORTSbrief



**HOCKEY:** St George's College is fast becoming a hotbed for nurturing hockey talent after three students were named in their respective England age group squads this week. Surbiton Hockey Club's Sasha Reed was handed an England U16s call-up, while Surbiton goalkeeper Ellie Shahbo and Evan Kimber, pictured, – who scored a MHL Premier Division hat-trick for Surbiton earlier in the season – were named in the England U18 girls and boys squads.

**CRICKET:** Malden Wanderers are through to the second round of the ECB National Club Championship after a five-wicket win over Twickenham at Cambridge Avenue on Sunday – they will face Sunbury on May 8. This weekend they have a friendly against Chipstead Coulsdon & Walcottians starting at 12.30 on Saturday. Meanwhile, also on Saturday, Kingstonian host Tower Hamlets in a pre-season friendly at King's College sportsground, starting at 1pm.

**CRICKET:** Worcester Park's Charlie King hit a 96-ball 100 on Saturday in a 144-run win over Sheen Park – he then went on to take a wicket in miserly figures of four runs off four overs in the pre-season friendly. They go to Bank of England on Thursday night in the opening salvo of the Surrey T20 Championship, ahead of another friendly on Saturday, this time at Horsley & Send. The Surrey Championship Division Two action starts on May 7 at Epsom.

**PARKRUN:** Helen Davies, of Stragglers AC, was the first woman through the tape at the Kingston meeting, clocking 22 minutes, 37 seconds. First overall was Henry Buttriss in 18:25. Fellow Stragglers Sarah Kinsella broke the ladies' tape at Crane Park in 19:16 – fast enough for fifth overall. Elsewhere, Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers had two winners in Rachel Brookes (Tilgate, 21:42) and Daniel Eckersley (Isle of Wight, 16:41).

**RUGBY UNION:** Old Tiffinians ended their London Division Three South West campaign on a losing note, going down 54-27 at United Services, Portsmouth on Saturday. It means a sixth place finish.